

Application No. 10/663,063

Reply to Office Action

*AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS*

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice and add new claims 19-39, as indicated below in the listing of claims.

**Listing of claims:****Claims 1-18 (Canceled).**

19. (New) A valve having one or more ports and a longitudinal axis, the valve comprising:
  - a hollow valve body;
  - a spool slidably disposed within the valve body;
  - a C-shaped retainer disposed within the valve body so as to prevent the spool from moving along the longitudinal axis of the valve, the retainer movable in a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the valve to an open position so as to permit the spool to move along the longitudinal axis of the valve; and
  - a coupling member engaged with the spool, the coupling member having an engaging surface for engagement with the retainer such that the spool is releasably retained in a first position when the retainer is disposed in contacting relationship with the engaging surface.
20. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the engaging surface of the coupling member comprises an annular groove.
21. (New) The valve of claim 20, wherein the valve body includes a recess, the retainer disposed in the recess of the valve body, and the recess of the valve body being configured such that the retainer is substantially fixed relative to the longitudinal axis of the valve and is allowed to flex laterally along a direction perpendicular to the longitudinal axis.

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22. (New) The valve of claim 21, wherein in response to the application of an opening force, the coupling member is movable relative to the retainer, the retainer thereby flexing outwardly to the open position and permitting the spool to move from the first position.

23. (New) The valve of claim 19, wherein the first position of the spool comprises a neutral position of the valve.

24. (New) The valve of claim 20, wherein the coupling member has a second annular groove for receiving the retainer such that the spool is releasably retained in a second position when the retainer is disposed within the second annular groove.

25. (New) The valve of claim 24, wherein the second position of the spool comprises a first flow path position of the valve.

26. (New) The valve of claim 24, wherein the coupling member has a third annular groove for receiving the retainer such that the spool is releasably retained in a third position when the retainer is disposed within the third annular groove.

27. (New) The valve of claim 26, wherein the second and third positions of the spool comprise a first flow path position and a second flow path position, respectively, of the valve.

28. (New) The valve of claim 26, wherein the second and third annular grooves each have a depth less than the depth of the first annular groove.

29. (New) The valve of claim 27, wherein the first flow path position defines a first flow path, the second flow path position defines a second flow path, the first flow path being different than the second flow path.

30. (New) The valve of claim 19, further comprising a locking device engageable to retain the valve in the first position.

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31. (New) The valve of claim 30, wherein the selected position is a neutral position.
32. (New) The valve of claim 30, wherein the locking device is a hitch pin clip.
33. (New) A valve having one or more ports and a longitudinal axis, the valve comprising:
  - a hollow valve body;
  - a movable member slidably disposed within the valve body;
  - a locking device engageable to retain the valve in a selected position such that the movable member is restrained from moving axially relative to the valve body.
34. (New) The valve of claim 33, wherein the locking device is a hitch pin clip.
35. (New) The valve of claim 34, wherein the valve body includes a first hole, and the movable member includes a groove, the groove of the movable member and the first hole of the valve body being positionable such that the groove and the hole are in axial alignment with each other to receive a portion of the hitch pin clip therethrough to retain the valve in the selected position.
36. (New) The valve of claim 33, wherein the selected position is a neutral position of the valve.
37. (New) The valve of claim 34, wherein the valve body includes a second hole configured to accept a portion of the hitch pin clip therethrough for storing the hitch pin clip.

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38. (New) A valve having one or more ports, the valve comprising:

- a hollow valve body;
- a spool slidably disposed within the valve body such that the valve can move along a longitudinal spool axis;
- a retainer disposed so as to prevent the spool from moving along the longitudinal spool axis, the retainer movable to an open position so as to permit the spool to move along the longitudinal spool axis;
- a coupling member slidably disposed within the valve body and coupled to the spool, the coupling member having an annular groove for receiving the retainer;
- a guide member fixed within the valve body adjacent to the coupling member and with a small clearance to the generally circular retainer, such that when the coupling member is subjected to a force, the retainer comes into contact with the guide member and the guide member prevents any further movement of the retainer along the longitudinal spool axis;
- a locking device engageable with the guide member to retain the valve in a selected position.

39. (New) The valve of claim 38, wherein the locking device is a hitch pin clip.